



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION III MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE
JUNE 26-27, 2024, MEETING**

ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative items.

a. Convention Legislation- Establish a waiver of the reclassification three-year period.

- (1) Recommendation. That the NCAA Division III Management Council sponsor convention legislation to establish a waiver of the reclassification three-year period to shorten it from three years to two years.
- (2) Effective date. August 1, 2025.
- (3) Rationale. For institutions within the reclassifying membership process that are philosophically and functionally prepared for active membership, the third year can be an unnecessary delay rather than a benefit. Consequently, institutions that have clearly demonstrated a commitment to the Division III philosophy and compliance with sports-sponsorship and financial aid requirements and fulfilled required reports and related communication expectations should have the opportunity to seek a waiver of the three-year requirement to shorten the period to two years.
- (4) Budget impact. None.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. Student-athletes participating at institutions that receive the waiver would be eligible to participate in NCAA championships sooner than what is currently permitted.

b. Convention Legislation - Eligibility for graduated student enrolled at a non-member institution that is part of a formal institutional academic relationship with a Division III institution.

- (1) Recommendation. That the NCAA Division III Management Council sponsor convention legislation to create an exception that would allow a student who has graduated from a Division III institution to maintain their athletics eligibility for that Division III institution while enrolled at an accredited non-member institution without a varsity athletics program, provided there is a formal institutional academic relationship between the Division III institution and the accredited non-member institution.

- (2) Rationale. This concept represents the committee's response to the evolving relationships between institutions to establish pathways to graduate-level degrees. This proactive and forward-thinking proposal provides participation opportunities in scenarios when there is a clear connection between the certifying institution and the graduated student. Specifically, it establishes a pathway to eligibility for students who have graduated from the certifying Division III institution and enroll at an accredited non-member institution when a formal academic relationship exists (e.g., 4-1 program, 3-2 program). Similar pathways already exist legislatively for concurrent enrollment and cooperative educational exchange programs. The concept aligns with the Division III Philosophy Statement in that it provides continued participation opportunities for students with remaining eligibility while maintaining the connection to the Division III institution.
- (3) Effective date. August 1, 2025.
- (4) Budget impact. None.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. Student-athletes have additional flexibility to continue their athletics participation without impacting their academic path.

2. Nonlegislative items.

- None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. **Welcome and announcements.** The committee commenced business June 26 at 1 p.m. Eastern.
2. **Membership Committee roster and conflict of interest.** Committee members were reminded of the NCAA Conflict of Interest Policy and proper procedures for recusal if a conflict of interest might arise. Committee members reviewed the roster and conflict of interest documentation.
3. **Review policies and procedures.** The committee reviewed the updated policies and procedures documents.
4. **Review of May meeting report.** The committee reviewed and approved its May 16 videoconference report.

5. Division III provisional/reclassifying membership.

- a. Current roster. The committee reviewed the current roster of provisional and reclassifying institutions and their committee mentors. Staff notified the committee that Mayville State University withdrew from the exploratory membership process.
- b. Process advancement. The committee reviewed annual reports from the following provisional and reclassifying institutions, provided feedback in areas where institutions could enhance their current practices, and took the following actions:
 - (1) Year One to Year Two – Approval.
 - Carlow University.
 - (2) Year Two to Year Three – Approval.
 - (a) Lyon College; and
 - (b) University of Hartford.
 - (3) Election to active membership – Approval.
 - (a) Asbury University.
 - (b) Warren Wilson College.

6. Athletics Consortium discussion. The committee continued its discussion of the athletics consortium legislation. The group reviewed concepts and feedback from the advisory group that would provide additional direction and clarification to both the committee and to those institutions seeking approval for an athletics consortium request. The committee agreed the legislation remains necessary in that it permits institutions to join athletics departments together and establish one Division III member. The committee will continue its discussions about updating the athletics consortium legislation at a future meeting highlighting the need to appropriately define the neighboring criterion, considering evolving institutional relationships and modalities of curriculum delivery.

7. Division III active membership.

- a. Institutional Merger. The committee reviewed documents detailing the merger of the University of Findlay (Division II) and Bluffton University (Division III). The

committee requested information from the institution related to how the merged institutions would reconcile differences in transfer regulations between NCAA divisions when a student-athlete moves from one “home” institution to the other. Specifically, the committee would like to review the institution’s academic athletics eligibility procedures, transfer policies and procedures, and financial aid transition protocols for student-athletes transferring enrollment from one institution to the other.

- b. Sports Sponsorship waiver requests. The committee reviewed two waivers for the following institutions:
 - (1) Trinity Washington University. The committee denied a waiver of Bylaw 20.11.3 for the 2023-24 academic year of the minimum sports-sponsorship requirements in the sport of women’s basketball, noting insufficient mitigation.
 - (2) University of Maine at Presque Isle. The committee approved a waiver of Bylaw 20.11.3 for the 2023-24 academic year of the minimum sports-sponsorship requirements in the sport of women’s cross country, noting sufficient mitigation was provided.
- c. Probation/Restricted status summary. The committee reviewed the current list of institutions on probation and restricted status. For the 2023-24 academic year, 13 institutions were in the probationary period and one institution is on restricted status.
- d. Maranatha Baptist University. The committee reviewed the required restricted status report and noted the university has met sports sponsorship requirements for 2023-24 and will return to active status for the 2024-25 academic year.
- e. 2023-24 sports sponsorship audit. Staff informed the committee that five institutions were randomly selected to be audited to ensure satisfaction of sports-sponsorship requirements for the 2023-24 academic year. An update will be provided at a future meeting.
- f. Conference membership. The committee received an update from staff on current conference membership and pending realignments.

8. Educational initiatives.

- a. 2024 NCAA Regional Rules Seminar attendance – Bylaw 20.8.4.16. Staff reported to the committee that not all institutions required to attend in 2024 met the attendance requirement. An update will be provided at a future meeting.
 - b. Division III Rules Test. Staff provided the committee with the updates on the Division III Rules Test.
9. **Division III governance update.** Bill Regan, managing director for Division III, provided the committee with Division III governance and Association-wide updates.
 10. **Future meeting schedule.** The committee reviewed its future meeting schedule.
 11. **Other business.** The committee received an update on a membership-sponsored proposal that will seek to reduce the number of institutions in an active multi-sport conference from seven to six. The intent of the proposal is to align the multi-sport conference requirement to the single-sport conference requirement, as well as the minimum conference member requirements to receive automatic qualification to Division III championships.
 12. **Adjournment.** The committee concluded its business and adjourned June 27, 11:52 a.m. Eastern.

Committee Chair: Corey Borchardt, Upper Midwest Athletic Conference
Staff Liaison(s): Eric Hartung, Division III Governance
Brittany Higgins, Academic and Membership Affairs
Sarah Turner, Academic and Membership Affairs

NCAA Division III Membership Committee June 26-27, 2024, Meeting	
Attendees:	
Corey Borchardt, Upper Midwest Athletic Conference.	
Lillian Case, Juniata College. (SAAC representative).	
Doug Chin, Great Northeast Athletic Conference.	
Frederick Clark, Bridgewater State University.	
Greg Cooper, Heidelberg University.	
Kim Fierke, State University of New York at Oneonta.	
Christine Hagedorn-Nordenholt, Rosemont College.	
Chris Roekle, Coast-to-Coast Conference.	
William Stiles, Alvernia University.	

Absentees:
Wayne Lewis, Houghton University.
Miriam Merrill, Pomona-Pitzer Colleges.
NCAA Staff Support in Attendance:
Eric Hartung, Brittany Higgins and Sarah Turner.
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:
Bill Regan, Lisa Rogers and Tori Sutherland.